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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Consideration by IAC on Tuesday, 24 November 1953,  
of Executive Order No. 10501

1. The Army Member has asked for consideration of the subject Executive Order, which becomes effective 15 December 1953, with title "Safeguarding Official Information in the Interests of the Defense of the United States". It is understood that the emphasis of the presentation of the Army will be upon the difficulties caused by the omission of the classification of RESTRICTED and that the Army will probably recommend that the IAC take appropriate action to have the classification of RESTRICTED restored.
2. The chief difficulty encountered by the Army is the dissemination of training and technical manuals down to the troop level. Many of these manuals are classified RESTRICTED. The Army feels that these manuals do not warrant a classification of CONFIDENTIAL. On the other hand, the Army does not wish to have these manuals become available for public use. Another difficulty encountered is if these manuals were classified CONFIDENTIAL, it would be necessary to afford safe storage and accountability at the troop level and in addition, official records of destruction would have to be maintained.
3. The Army will probably comment also on industrial security. It is understood that one of the Armed Services presently has about four thousand (4,000) contracts with private plants bearing a RESTRICTED classification. To raise these contracts to CONFIDENTIAL would result in considerable expense to the Government because of the requirements for the clearances of personnel.
4. As far as CIA is concerned, the implementation of this Executive Order will not cause any severe disruption. Our present Security Regulations are not too far apart from the Executive Order. A meeting has already been held under the guidance of the Security Office with representatives from all Offices, Area Divisions and Senior Staffs of the Agency. At this meeting the Executive Order was gone over section by section. It was the consensus that with a few modifications in CIA security practices, that the provisions of the Order could be successfully carried out.

See Reverse for Declassification Action

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Pending a revision of Agency Security Regulations, a notice will shortly be distributed to all employees giving guidance and instruction for carrying out those provisions of the Order not currently in Agency Regulations.

CONCLUSIONS:

a. From the standpoint of carrying out the provisions of the Executive Order within CIA, no changes in the Order are considered necessary.

b. The advisability of recommending changes in this Order from the overall standpoint of the intelligence community is undoubtedly a matter for high policy consideration.



L. K. White  
Acting Deputy Director  
(Administration)

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